

Page Denied

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied

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20 SEPTEMBER 1978

IMAGERY INFORMATION REPORT

DEVELOPMENT OF PROBABLE ICBM BOOSTER-CLASS ROCKET MOTOR, LAN-TIEN SOLID PROPELLANT PRODUCTION COMPLEX, PRC (TSR)

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(TSR) A new probable rocket motor/stage transporter was observed on [] of [] at the Lan-tien Solid Propellant Production Complex in the People's Republic of China (PRC). This sighting provides the first evidence of ICBM booster-class rocket motor development/production in the PRC. []

(TSR) The probable transporter was on a concrete driveway outside a probable shop building on the northern edge of the finishing and final assembly area at the Lan-tien Complex. The overall dimensions of the rectangular probable transporter are [] meters. The probable transporter appears to be of substantial frame construction with parallel structural members forming the sides and a lateral crossbrace at one end. Five curved, load-bearing cradles, ranging in width from [] are positioned [] from the crossbraced end of the probable transporter. A transporter of this size and configuration would be well suited to carry an ICBM first-stage rocket motor.

(TSR) Several possible mold components were adjacent to the main road and were about 35 meters southeast of the probable rocket motor/stage transporter. Molds are sometimes used in the rocket motor production process to form specially configured areas of a propellant grain such as an aft closure section. The southernmost component in the group (see illustration) has an inner diameter of [] and an outer diameter of []

(TSR) Within the past few months, the Lan-tien Complex may have become operational. This probable status was determined by the final concrete paving of roadways between key functional areas of the complex and recent evidence of test activity in the vicinity of test cells 1 and 2.

(TSR) The only known strategic solid propellant missile system under development in the PRC is a submarine-launched ballistic missile which is being developed at the Hu-ho-hao-te Solid Propellant Complex [] While no missile system has been previously associated with the Lan-tien Solid Propellant Production Complex, the complex appears to have sufficient capability to develop, test, and series produce rocket motors for a multistage solid propellant missile system.

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [] Asian Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, []

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